

BEAT Infant Music Festivals

BEAT's 2019 Infant Music Festivals included over two and a half thousand Year 1 and Year 2 children, all learning shared repertoire and coming together to sing and perform with and for each other in schools across Barnet. The festivals have many benefits, giving these young children not only an exciting and joyful experience but one that builds confidence and gives purpose and meaning to their music making. Many Barnet schools have used these annual festivals and the supporting resources as a cornerstone of their music provision for Key Stage 1.

This year, we have devised an Infant Music Festival offer that responds to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and still allows us to deliver the aspects of these cherished events that schools and children value.

How will this year's Infant Music Festivals work?

We can still join together, even if we cannot come together. You will take part in a festival which you will be able to join online from your classroom, with opportunities to perform with and for other schools. As always, we will be asking each school to prepare their own performance around our theme; we will share these either live on the day (using conferencing), or by sharing pre-recorded videos. We will also ask you to make creative contributions to a shared piece, which we will edit together and premiere at your festival.

You will receive a comprehensively resourced Teachers' Pack written by BEAT's classroom music specialist, Ros Savournin, comprising a set of flexible music activities for Key Stage 1 with ideas for listening, playing instruments or found objects, responding to music with movement and musical composition activities. There are tips for teaching and ideas for developing and extending the material in class. This pack will be fully supported with recordings, and enable specialist and non-specialist teachers to deliver key content in Music for Key Stage 1; it can form the basis for a term's work for Year 1 and/or Year 2.

Supporting your school's COVID policies: Schools have responded in different ways to the government guidelines and to emerging evidence regarding singing. There is much less emphasis than usual on singing in this year's pack, and the key content can be delivered without singing at all. Furthermore, in view of the exceptional pressure placed on the curriculum by the COVID crisis, and the potential role of creative work in a recovery curriculum for our children, this year's materials have a cross-curricular focus with links to literacy, story-telling, dance, drama, art, and themes which can be picked up in PSHE.

You will still be supported as you get ready for your festival. COVID restrictions make it difficult for us to offer school visits this year with any certainty. However, we will keep in touch with you, and can support staff by phone, email, Zoom or video exchange.

Sign up to our KS1 Online Music Lessons if you would like a more comprehensive package of support – a series of 6 weekly video sessions running up to the festivals which can be used to deliver the IMF material directly to your students via the whiteboard, as well as additional content. These can also be viewed at home by families who are unable to attend school, or in case of the need for isolation or local lockdown.

How to sign up for the BEAT Infant Music Festivals

The IMF costs £125-£175 depending on the size of your school. We are charging for this year's festivals on a sliding scale as follows: 1 form entry - £125; 2 form entry - £150; 3 or more form entry - £175.

The Online Music Lessons package is available to you for an additional £40.

This year's festivals will be in the weeks commencing 9th and 16th November. This is later than usual, allowing for the many likely pressures on class time and possible variations in attendance.

To sign up your school, or to ask further questions, email ros.savournin@beatrust.org.uk

BEAT - working together with schools to keep Barnet musical
www.beatrust.org.uk